

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 13615 161716Z
ACTION NODS-00

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S E C R E T CAIRO 13615

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EG US
SUBJ: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PRESIDENT SADAT

REF: STATE 193258

1. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, SADAT IS CURRENTLY IN ALEXANDRIA "ON VACATION". SINCE FAHMY RETURNED TO CAIRO YESTERDAY, I MET WITH HIM THIS MORNING TO PRESENT PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER AND TO ASK THAT IT BE FORWARDED TO SADAT AT ONCE.

2. FAHMY READ THE LETTER AND UNDERTOOK TO HAVE IT TRANSLATED INTO ARABIC, AFTER WHICH HE WILL GET IT TO THE PRESIDENT. HE NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL NOT BE HAPPY WITH THE LETTER, ESPECIALLY THE REQUEST THAT SADAT GIVE MORE SERIOUS THOUGHT TO A UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION. FAHMY TERMED THIS AN "ULTIMATUM". SADAT, HE PREDICTED, WILL NOT LIKE IT.

3. FAHMY PROFESSED NOT TO UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION. HE CALLED OUR BELIEF THAT A UNIFIED DELEGATION WILL NOT MATERIALLY RESTRICT EGYPT'S FREEDOM OF ACTION IN

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GENEVA ILLUSORY. THE WHOLE SYRIAN/JORDANIAN PURPOSE, HE ARGUED, IS TO RESTRICT GOE'S FREEDOM OF ACTION. SYRIA AND JORDAN STILL INSIST ON FUNCTIONAL SUB-COMMITTEES. A UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION, FAHMY ASSERTED, AUTOMATICALLY MEANS THAT THE GENEVA TALKS WILL BE NOWHERE. IT WILL BE A MATTER FOR SADAT TO DECIDE, BUT, HE FAHMY, WOULD HAVE TO CONTINUE TO ADVISE

THE PRESIDENT NOT TO AGREE TO A UNIFIED DELEGATION.
HOWEVER MUCH SADAT WANT TO WORK WITH PRESIDENT CARTER.
FAHMY THOUGH THE PRESIDENT WILL NOT AGREE TO THE
UNIFIED DELEGATION CONCEPT. IT IS AGAINST GOE'S
INTERESTS.

4. I REJECTED HIS SUGGESTION THAT THE REFERENCE IN
THE LETTER TO A UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION CONCEPT IS
IN ANY WAY AN "ULTIMATUM". IT SIMPLY URGES SADAT TO
GIVE MOST SERIOUS THOUGHT TO THE IDEA AS THE MOST
FEASIBLE MEANS TO DEAL WITH THE DIFFICULT PALESTINIAN
REPRESENTATION PROBLEM. I REITERATED THE SUGGESTION
IN THE LETTER THAT PRESIDENT CARTER BELIEVES THAT THE
WORK OF THE CONFERENCE CAN BE STRUCTURED IN WAYS THAT
WILL NOT BE DETRIMENTAL TO EGYPT'S ABILITY TO NEGOTIATE
ON MATTERS OF SUBSTANTIVE IMPORTANCE AND RECALLED YOU
HAD ALSO MADE THIS POINT TO SADAT AND FAHMY. AS HE
KNEW, THE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION PROBLEM REMAINS
A MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK. OUR PURPOSE IS ESPOUSING THE
UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION CONCEPT IS SOLELY TO FIND SOME
FEASIBLE WAY OF RESOLVING THE ISSUE. FAHMY RESPONDED
IT IS SIMPLY AN EFFORT ON OUR PART TO GET TO GENEVA,
BUT THERE IS NO POINT GOING TO GENEVA IN A CONFIGURA-
TION WHICH FROM THE OUTSET INSURES FAILURE.

5. FAHMY THEN SAID SADAT WILL WANT CLARIFICATION ON
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THE MATTER OF THE PLO. GOE CONTINUES TO URGE ARAFAT
TO ACCEPT UN RESOLUTION 242 WITH WHATEVER RESERVATION
IT CARES TO MAKE ON THE REFUGEE ASPECT. HE WANTED
TO BE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE PLO CAN BE INDUCED
TO ACCEPT UN RESOLUTION 242 AND THE USG ENTERS INTO
A DIALOGUE WITH IT, THE PURPOSE OF THAT DIALOGUE WILL
BE TO TRY TO ARRANGE FOR PLO REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA
IN SOME FORM. OTHERWISE, HE ARGUED, THERE IS NO POINT
IN URGING PLO LEADERSHIP TO TAKE THE RISK OF ACCEPTING
UN RESOLUTION 242. I REMINDED HIM OF THE REPORT OF
YOUR TALKS IN TAIF IN WHICH WE HAD POINTED OUT THAT
THE FORM OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA WAS
NOT JUST UP TO US, BUT HAD TO BE AGREED TO BY ALL PARTIES,
INCLUDING ISRAEL. HE KNEW THE ISRAELI POSITION AS
WELL AS I DID. WHAT, IF ANY, DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY
MIGHT ULTIMATELY EVOLVE IN THAT POSITION WAS ANYONE'S
GUESS.

6. FAHMY SAID GOE NEEDS KNOW MORE CLEARLY WHAT WE
ENVISAGE AS THE OBJECTIVE OF ANY USG/PLO DIALOGUE
THAT MAY DEVELOP. UNLESS IT MEANS USG WILL SUPPORT
PLO PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA, PREFERABLY AS AN

INDEPENDENT DELEGATION, SADAT AND HE CAN HARDLY
CONTINUE TO URGE ARAFAT TO TAKE THE POLITICAL RISK
OF ACCEPTING UN RESOLUTION 242. ONLY REASON PLO IS
CURRENTLY CONSIDERING EGYPTIAN DN SAUDI URGINS IS
THAT THEY BELIEVE SUCH A DIALOGUE WILL LEAD TO PLO
REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA. WITHOUT PLO REPRESENTATION,
FAHMY STATED, NEITHER EGYPT NOR SYRIA CAN ATTEND
GENEVA. JORDAN MIGHT TRY TO DO SO AND TROT OUT SOME
WEST BANK PALESNTIANANS WHO ARE ACCEPTABLE TO ISRAELIS,
BUT NO RESPONSIBLE ARAB GOVT CAN SO BLANTLY DISAVOW
RABAT CONFERENCE DECISIONS BY ACCEPTING THIS. THE
POINT, HE NOTED, IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT
AS GOE AND SAUDIS PRESS PLO, BUT GOE IS UNCERTAIN OF
OUR POSITION AND NEEDS CLARIFICATION.

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PPDC, PDEV, PBOR, EG, US, XF, PLO, (SADAT, ANWAR), (CARTER, JIMMY)
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